

RECOGNIZING CHIEF QUARTERMASTER WILLIAM P. SHATRAW

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a truly outstanding Chief Petty Officer in our great Navy. Chief Quartermaster (Submarines) William P. Shatraw completes more than twenty years of service to our nation and transfers from our newest and most capable attack submarine, U.S.S. *Connecticut* (SSN 22) to the Fleet Reserve of the United States Navy. A ceremony is being held on Friday in his honor at the Historic Ship *Nautilus* in Groton, Connecticut. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his outstanding achievements.

A native of Albany, New York, he enlisted in the United States Navy after receiving his high school diploma from Christian Brothers Academy in Albany. Following recruit training in Orlando, Florida, he attended a series of schools to prepare him for his first assignment, in the Navigation department aboard U.S.S. *George Washington Carver* (SSBN 656) (Gold). Chief Shatraw completed five patrols aboard *Carver*.

Leaving the *Carver* in May 1985 he reported to the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut where he taught others the art of navigating the world's oceans.

In February 1989, he returned to sea aboard U.S.S. *Providence* (SSN 719) where he completed four deployments that were vital to national security. After a promotion to Chief Petty Officer in 1991, he was transferred to the attack submarine U.S.S. *Gato* (SSN 615) where he served as the Assistant Navigator until March 1994.

In April 1994 he reported to the Staff of the Commander Submarine Development Squadron Twelve in Groton, Connecticut, for duty as Assistant Operations Officer. During this assignment he provided assistance to assigned submarines in their preparation for extended deployments and he coordinated exercises and operating area management.

Chief Shatraw was selected as a member of the pre-commissioning crew for U.S.S. *Connecticut* (SSN 22), reporting for duty in April 1997. He organized and trained an inexperienced Navigation division, molding them into one of the finest teams in the Atlantic Fleet.

Even as Chief Shatraw enjoys his well-earned retirement in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, the Navy will continue to benefit from his service. He has left behind a legacy of excellence in the dozens of young submariners he has personally trained. They will continue to patrol the ocean depths ready to project power from under the sea.

Mr. Speaker, during Bill Shatraw's twenty year naval career, he and his family have made many sacrifices for this Nation. I would like to thank them all—Bill, his lovely wife Sharon, and their two children, Kendra and Billy—for their contributions to the Navy and to our nation.

As Chief Shatraw departs the Navy for new challenges ahead, I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to wish him every success, as well as fair winds and following seas.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LALONDE FAMILY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a family that has reached a significant milestone. On May 7, 2000, the LaLonde family of Standish, Michigan celebrated 100 years of continuous family farming.

On May 7, 1900, Samuel and Helen LaLonde purchased and began farming a plot of land in Arenac County that once belonged to the Saginaw Railroad Company. They produced various crops and had a herd of dairy cows. Through hard work, long hours and complete dedication to farming they were able, over the years, to purchase additional surrounding land and expand their family farm.

In 1913, Samuel and Helen LaLonde passed the land down to Mose and Eva LaLonde, their son and daughter-in-law. The second generation of LaLondes continued to farm until Mose's death in 1951, when their son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Bernadine LaLonde, began managing the property. In 1961, they purchased the farm and continued to manage and reside on the LaLonde farm. In 1967 the barn that housed their dairy operation burned down. Unwilling to give up, the LaLonde family switched operations and increased their production of corn, soybeans, green beans and sugar beets.

The LaLonde family has been one of the lucky few who have held on to their farm through two World Wars, the Great Depression, and numerous other economically difficult times in American agriculture. They have responded to America's call for better conservation, vigilance in food safety and attention to nutrition while always making sure that the steady flow of food is uninterrupted.

Mr. Speaker, the LaLondes are a fine example of American farmers who have lived life with uncertainty in order to put food on our tables. Each day they rise before the sun in order to cultivate the land or tend livestock, not knowing what the weather will bring or how market conditions will affect their bottom line. Farmers and ranchers across the country provide a solid foundation for our nation by ensuring that our basic food needs are taken care of—they are the backbone of America.

One hundred years of family farming is a rare feat. I commend the LaLonde family for their hard work and commitment to American agriculture. I wish them another 100 years of prosperous and successful family farming.

CONGRATULATING AMBASSADOR STEPHEN CHEN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, after serving nearly fifty years as a diplomat for his country and his last two years as his country's Representative in the United States, Ambassador Stephen Chen will be resigning from government service and returning to Taipei.

Always gracious and diplomatic, Ambassador Chen has impressed everyone with his industry, his wit and humor, and his erudition. An expert on subjects familiar and arcane, Ambassador Chen is a diplomat's diplomat.

Even though Ambassador Chen represents a country that has no formal ties with the United States, Ambassador Chen, with the very able assistance of aide Leonard Chao, has overcome many formidable obstacles in maintaining proper contacts with our State Department, and in building many friendships on Capitol Hill. When it comes to working for his country and his people, Ambassador Chen says with a smile: "To make up our lack of access to executive branches, we must work with our friends on the hill. We must help lawmakers see that Taiwan is a full democracy, sharing many of the democratic ideals with the United States. We must stress to our friends that it is not necessary for the United States to sacrifice Taiwan's interests in order for the United States to improve its relations with the PRC." In my opinion, Ambassador Chen has achieved his objectives in Congress. He has made numerous friends on the Hill and has convinced many of us that both Taiwan and the PRC can be true beneficiaries of a wise U.S. East Asia policy.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chen has earned our respect and genuine affection during his tenure in Washington. It has been my privilege to know Stephen and his charming wife Rosa and to enjoy their warm hospitality at Twin Oaks. I will miss their charm, their wit and their graciousness. I send Stephen and Rosa my best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE CAUSEY, COLUMNIST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the last column by Mike Causey, who is moving on to a new career after 36 years at the Washington Post.

As the Post's "Federal Dairy" columnist, Mr. Causey has been covering federal employee issues for years, and as a Member of Congress who has many federal employees in my district, it has been a pleasure working with him. He has always been fair and objective, and I want to wish him all the best as he moves on to a new career.

[From The Washington Post, May 8, 2000]

TODAY'S THE DAY DIARY COLUMNIST TURNS THE PAGE

(Federal Diary by Mike Causey)

Well, there comes a time, and this is it.

This is my last Federal Diary column for the Washington Post.

I leave this job pretty much as I entered it: still suspicious of the statistics that powerful organizations pump out. For example:

The usually reliable Washington Post—my longtime home—says I produced 11,287 bylines. It seems like more than that. But who's counting?

Also, The Post says I've been here for 36 years—as messenger, copy boy, reporter and columnist. They got the job titles right. But 36 years? It seems like only yesterday. Honest.

So, how to sum up?

The most-asked question (other than, "Did a real barber cut your hair?") has been this: How could you produce six columns a week, year after year, without going nuts?

The answer is simple: for several years I did the Federal Diary column seven days a week. When they gave me Saturdays off, it removed all the pressure. Almost all.

Secondly, it was part of the job description.

Finally, I loved every minute of it. Honest.

Being here for nearly four decades has been an incredible and enriching experience. You can't imagine.

Over the years—in the line of duty—I have been shot at, gassed, tossed off a building. I covered the first Beatles concert and got to be one of the first people to circle the Capital Beltway. I was once run out of a small town in Western Maryland by a mob that, now that I think about it, had good reason to speed my departure from its fair community.

Being a newspaper reporter means never having to grow up. I got to see how things work, or are supposed to, or don't. The events and machines and tours were fascinating. The people—almost without exception—were wonderful.

Reporters get to meet lots of VIPs. But for most of us "beat" reporters, the best part is the so-called ordinary people who, more often than not, are extraordinary. Just quieter than VIPs. The reason they are so good is simple: It's part of their job description. They say (by the way, in all these years I have never discovered who "they" are) that reporters are only as good as their sources. True, up to a point. Sources are critical. But the real secret weapon for a successful reporter has two parts:

The people (as in colleagues) you work with.

The people (as in readers) you work for.

It is that simple, and that complicated.

Working with several generations of Washington Post types has been an education. Trust me on that one.

Reporters get the glory. But they only look good if they have great editors, researchers and backup. And reporters wouldn't last a minute, and you would never read their award-winning words, if it weren't for the people who do the real work. Like sell and process ads, make sure folks get billed and paid—so we can get paid—and produce and deliver the paper. For 25 cents you get, every day, the equivalent of a book printed overnight. Not a bad deal.

Working with, and writing about, federal employees and military personnel has been a treat. If there are more dedicated people in this country, I have yet to meet them. I have known lots of people who would die for this country, and several who did. Few bankers, columnists, lawyers or CEOs can make that claim.

Bureaucrats—and I don't have to say this anymore—are indeed beautiful. And don't you forget it.

I could go on, but I hope you get the idea. Besides, time and space—as always—are limited.

So has this been fun? And rewarding? Short answer: You bet!

But this isn't a wake. Or even a goodbye. More in the order of see-you-later. I hope.

Next stop for me is the brave new world of the Internet. I'll be at 1825 I St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006. Stay in touch.

I'm leaving here, but The Post will always be home. Always.

This column has been around since the 1930s. It's been on loan to me for a long time. My successor, Stephen Barr, is an old friend. He's a Texan and a Vietnam vet, and he knows the beat. Best of all, he's a very nice guy.

I hope Steve has as much fun as I did. Remember, he's had nearly half a century to prepare for his first column, which will begin Sunday. But he will have only one day to write his second column. So a little help and encouragement from you would be nice.

Thanks.

Mike

UNION PACKAGING—NEW PHILADELPHIA MINORITY ENTERPRISE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a significant new minority enterprise in the Philadelphia area, Union Packaging, and its African-American president, Michael Pearson. Union Packaging was launched in December of last year by a \$25.8 million 3-year contract to supply paper cartons to 2,300 McDonald's restaurants along the east coast. As a minority supplier, Union Packaging joins a growing force that last year provided over \$3 billion in goods and services to the McDonald's system. The contract with McDonald's gives Pearson, as he says, "an opportunity to provide a vehicle for job creation and to be a linchpin for rebirth" in West Philadelphia. It reflects McDonald's commitment to investing in the community. Last year, the company brought new life and opportunities to our inner city by relocating one of its five divisional headquarters there. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this article on Union Packaging, published in the March 22, 2000, issue of Philadelphia Inquirer, be placed in the RECORD and I encourage my colleagues to read the account of this exciting new venture.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 22, 2000]

PACKED UP AND RARIN' TO GO

MCDONALD'S HAS CONTRACTED WITH UNION PACKAGING, A MINORITY BUSINESS, TO SUPPLY CARTONS FOR ITS FOOD

(By Rosland Briggs-Gammon)

The warehouse at Union Packaging L.L.C. is filled with empty McDonald's apple pie and chicken nugget cartons. They are some of the first of millions of fast-food cartons awaiting distribution to 2,300 McDonald's locations along the East Coast. The Yeadon company, a joint venture between two area product packaging firms, has a new three-year, \$25.8 million contract to supply the paper cartons to McDonald's.

It is McDonald Corp.'s first minority business enterprise contract in the Philadelphia area, and Union Packaging's first account. The two companies celebrated at an open house yesterday.

Michael Pearson, president of Union Packaging, opened the plant in January at an industrial park that sits near the border of Delaware and Philadelphia Counties.

The company is a joint venture between Providence Packaging Inc., owned by Pearson, and Dopaco Inc., a packaging firm in Exton. The partnership allows Union Packaging, 51 percent owned by Pearson, who is African American, to bid on corporate contracts as a minority-owned business.

The partnership also allows Union Packaging to delay purchasing printing equipment until next year. In the interim, Dopaco prints and cuts the paper used to make the cartons. Dopaco also has lent the company experienced employees to help train its workers and start production.

"It is so expensive to get into business," said Dopaco's chairman and chief executive officer Edward Fitts. "Dopaco has expensive equipment already so Union Packaging doesn't have to make an investment in equipment right now. That's the kind of relationship that will help minority firms."

Such partnerships are becoming more common, said Lynda Ireland, president of the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council. Similar partnerships started in the construction industry, she said. "It is certainly something we are trying to encourage," Ireland said. "To get into the corporate-America arena, you have to be creative."

Pearson, 38, spent three years working for a packaging firm in New York. Using his experience there, he decided to start his own business. As the first step of his three-step plan, he launched Providence, which also sells packaging products, in 1997, using Dopaco as the outside production firm.

Union Packaging, with its limited production capabilities, is his second step, he said. He launched the firm with a bid for the McDonald's contract, which was awarded to Union Packaging in December. Also last year, McDonald's moved its Northeast region headquarters to Philadelphia.

"When we brought the Northeast division here, we wanted to bring jobs to the area," said William Lowery Jr., a senior vice president with McDonald's Northeast division. "This is one of the ways we can do that and give back to the community."

To start Union Packaging, Pearson received a \$200,000 opportunity grant and \$300,000 in tax credits from the state of Pennsylvania for creating new jobs. The money will help finance equipment purchases. One machine that folds and glues the boxes can cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000, Pearson said.

Dopaco ships the printed and cut paper to Union Packaging's 65,000-square-foot plant. There, employees feed the small sheets through machinery that glues one edge and creates fold marks to transform the sheets into boxes.

At the end of the production line, the flattened boxes are packaged and sealed for shipment. Joe DeBernardi, plant superintendent, said the line produces about 60,000 boxes an hour. Two other machines do the same for chicken nugget containers.

The company has hired 20 people and hopes to have a staff of 100 within two years, Pearson said. The company chose its site because of the worker base in West Philadelphia and its location near graphics, engineering and other service firms, and because of the expansion possibilities. Union Packaging's lease includes the option to add up to 300,000 square feet of space adjacent to its building.

"It's an opportunity to provide a vehicle for job creation and to be a linchpin for rebirth in this area," Pearson said.

EQUAL PAY DAY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with Representative CONSTANCE MORELLA to recognize the significance of May 11th as Equal Pay Day. May 11, 2000, is the day when women's wages for the period beginning January 1, 1999, will equal the amount earned by a man during calendar year 1999. Equal Pay Day